The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1691 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1943 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 33, NO. 36

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

Back at the old stand again after a three-months silence, we express the hope first of all that our readers enjoyed and profited by the series of articles on social security for which we bowed out. With Congress going back into session shortly, it is imperative that those who read and approved those articles call upon their Representatives and Senators to vote for the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill which incorporates the vital improvements described in the series.

Many startling and encouraging developments have taken place on the war fronts since we left "faced the facts." The cleanup in Africa, the capture of Sicily and the invasion of Italy, when viewed in retrospect, have moved with amazing speed. On the eastern front, Russia, for the first time since the war started, is succeeding in pushing back the Nazis during summer weather, a sure sign that the blitzkrieg is on the blink. In the Pacific, the Japs have taken one beating after another and our forces are pressing relentlessly forward toward vantage points from which the Japanese islands can be blasted into the sea.

But there is one battle which is going against America. That is the battle of Washington.

The Battle of Washington

We don't pretend to understand all the ins and outs of the depressing goings-on in the nation's capital during the past few months. The moment any particular situation does set some up to expectations that all can be sure that a flood of new regulations will issue forth to make matters worse. And if things seem to be going along all-right another set of bureaucrats will start meddling around and gum up the works.

To complicate matters further, whenever such mistakes happen the political opposition and the pre-war isolationists jump into the picture and take advantage of the opportunity to smear and revile the Administration and to undermine public confidence.

Sometimes, in fact, you wonder whether the politicians and office-holders in Washington know that there is a war going on.

This is all very general. We intend, however, to get specific with regard to certain conditions deeply affecting the workers of the country.

For instance, last March management and labor in the West Coast aircraft plants asked the War Labor Board to approve wage increases that had been negotiated by collective bargaining. These increases were not excessive. The War Labor Board was warned that unless they were granted chaos would result. It was impossible to expect the aircraft workers to remain in that industry when they could get better wages in other war plants in the same vicinity. However, the WLB, with the labor members dissenting, authorized merely a token wage boost. The inevitable happened. The aircraft industry manpower problem became one of the most serious there is. And now, six months later, the WLB at last is taking steps to correct the situation.

A Showdown Needed

That story has a fairly happy ending. We wish we could say as much for price stabilization. The OPA, the War Food Administration and other agencies have set the ouds of living run beyond the bounds of control and, even worse, they have tried to kid the public into believing that prices were being reduced. However, the public is paying the bills and knows better.

There is going to this have to be a showdown on this issue. The President has promised to make recommendations to Congress for further action to permit the Government to carry out the provisions of the Economic Stabilization Act, and to see that prices must be stabilized along with wages at the levels prevailing on Sept. 15, 1942. We hope the President will do his stuff.

Purposely, we have refrained from referring to the squabbles between public officials which have enlivened the battle of Washington. These are but minor symptoms of the lack of unity and purpose and vigorous leadership which afflict Washington.

Nor is labor entirely immune. A few days ago, we read an editorial in the Daily Worker headed "Let Sidney Talk" because he favors practical collaboration between the British Trades Union Congress and the American Federation of Labor over theoretical alliances between the RTUC, the alleged Soviet trade union movement, the CIO and a paper organization of left-wing South Americans. Lo and behold, the CIO followed up this diatribe with an editorial inisits own official publication striking the same note.

The Daily Worker and the CIO don't seem to be able to understand why British Labor won't cooperate with them. We can answer. Some months ago Sir Walter Citrine and other British labor leaders asked the CIO for a few facts. The CIO refused even to disclose its paid-up membership. In the face of that attitude, the British dropped the CIO like a hot potato. We think the British know what it's all about.

Army Program Strengthens Bonds Between Soldiers And Workers

Washington, D. C.—Intensifying its program of bringing soldiers and workers closer together, the Army has played host to union leaders at many widely separated military installations. These were no "rubber-neck" tours. Labor leaders donned fatigue uniforms and shared the hardships of training with troops so that they could carry back to the war workers a realistic story of the soldier's daily routine.

The program, sponsored by Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson and Lieutenant General Brehon Somervell, Commanding General, Army Service Forces, has two objectives. They are:

1. To give war workers' representatives first-hand knowledge, gained through actual experience, of the adversities and efficient training which American soldiers receive before they are sent into battle, and to see and use the equipment which will be used in combat.

2. To give American soldiers a chance to learn what's happening on the production front and to meet the people who produce the weapons and other equipment with which they are training and which thousands of troops are using in combat against the Axis on many fronts.

General Somervell, in one of his letters of invitation to a labor group, expressed in a few words the Army's point of view on the subject of camp visits when he wrote:

"From that visit I am confident will come a strengthening of the bonds between the military and production forces and a renewed determination to meet and even surpass every production goal during this crucial period."

During each of the eight visits that have been conducted to date a spirit of comradeship and friendship between workers and soldiers has been created. In many instances, warm personal friendships have sprung up. The first consideration of the workers' representatives on their return from camp usually has been: "What can we do to help those boys in camp?"

Almost invariably, the first reaction of the workers to the various unions to this question has been an expression of determination to see to it that these soldiers will never have to go into battle without an overwhelming superiority in every weapon, munition or equipment.

Troops with whom the labor unionists lived and trained reacted favorably. They found that these "two-day specials" talked their language, had similar domestic and economic problems and possessed the same basic ideals of freedom, democracy and decency as themselves. Most of them, moreover, had sons or younger brothers in the armed forces.

Soldiers and workers talked about these matters during lulls in the training routine. The soldiers heard about the good work accomplished by Labor-Management Committees, and then asked questions about the unions. But almost all discussed informally over a friendly bottle of 3.2 beer or an even softer drink of soda pop.

WAGE RAISE URGED FOR 75,000 LUMBER WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—The establishment of a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was recommended without a dissenting vote by the Industry Committee for the Logging Lumber, Timber and Related Products Industry, convened under the Fair Labor Standards Act. In the war industry employing over 1,000,000 workers, more than 75,000 are now receiving less than a 40-cent wage. The substandard wages prevailing in the industry have persisted in the face of keen labor competition in the Southern states. The unfair competitive advantage enjoyed by the southern lumber manufacturers at the expense of labor will be diminished and greater stability of employment assured in the entire industry.

Representing the American Federation of Labor on the committee were: Albert E. Fischer, research director, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; Peter Terzich, assistant director, Carpenters' District United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; representative, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; Hugh Chisholm, secretary, Seattle; and James J. Doyle, president, Coopers' International Union of North America.

TRANSPORTATION WORKERS ASKED TO STAY ON JOBS

Washington, D. C.—Transportation workers should stay on their jobs; they will not improve their Selective Service status in any way by transfer, provided they are now using their highest skills, Otto S. Beyer, member of the War Manpower Commission and Director of the Division of Transportation Personnel, Office of Defense Transportation, said.

"Transportation is a vital war industry, and transportation needs workers," Mr. Beyer declared.

WLB Hikes Pay Of Aircraft Workers, Reversing Prior Niggardly Decision

Washington, D. C.—The National War Labor Board authorized new pay schedules for two plants of the Boeing Aircraft Company in the State of Washington providing substantial increases for the most employees.

The decision was a departure from the board's previous wage rulings in the airframe industry and other war plants and was based upon the fact that pay adjustments were essential to increase the production of Flying Fortresses.

Thus the position taken several months ago by the labor members of the War Labor Board in dissenting from the meager pay raises originally granted the Boeing workers was upheld.

The new pay schedules consist of ten classifications from a starting rate of 82½ cents an hour for unskilled workers to a top rate of $1.60 an hour for highly skilled mechanics.

The adjustment is not to go into effect until approved by Economic Stabilization Director Fred M. Vinson, but his approval is expected since the granting of increases to Boeing workers was approved in principle by the War Labor Stabilization Committee of which Vinson is a member.

War Production Chief Donald M. Nelson and WPB Vice Chairman Charles E. Wilson appeared before WLB in support of a slightly higher schedule of increases presented by Boeing management and labor.

Output Of Shipyards Increased By Master Agreement, Frey Says

Portland, Ore.—The Liberty ship named after the late John J. Nolan of San Francisco, noted labor leader of the Pacific Coast, was launched here on Labor Day, with John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department, as the principal speaker.

Mr. Nolan was a molder by trade. He not only attained high office in the Molders Union, but served in Congress for many years. Speaking of his advancement, Mr. Frey said, "was an evidence of the opportunities our free institutions give to men of integrity of character, vital purpose in life, and loyalty to American principles."

Paying high tribute to the achievements of the Pacific Coast shipyard workers in launching ships "eighteen days after the keel was laid," Mr. Frey declared this remarkable result was due to the influence of the Master Shipbuilding Agreement, worked out by "management, labor and the higher governmental agencies," which "blazed the way and opened the door to the broader possibilities of effective bargaining as contrasted with the efforts of some public officials to fumble with the problem of human relations in industry. Looking into the future, there are reasons for believing that this agreement may indicate the method which will make the Pacific Coast the nation's greatest industrial empire."

"The principles and policies established by the American Federation of Labor are the sound and certain guide for labor in the future," Mr. Frey said. "One of these principles is that labor must be organized into trade unions, regardless of the workers' racial or national origin, or their political or religious affiliations.

"Another basic principle is that voluntarism is the only sound basis for accord and good feeling between men. Where the compulsion of government supersedes voluntary action then men are governed without their full consent. This principle, which it is basic as it is truly American, declares, in substance, that the rules and regulations for the relationships between men which are voluntarily entered into, are far more effective in working out even-handed justice than the enactment and enforcement of laws.

"Today, with our precious liberties at stake in a world war, our trade union duty is to apply every influence and energy at our command to the rapid, and still more rapid, production of all the manufactured articles required by our fighting forces and those of our Allies."

AFL Opens Nation-Wide Job Hunt In Next "Labor For Victory" Show

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor will launch a nation-wide "job-hunt" over the air with the Sept. 12 "Labor For Victory" program carried by all NBC stations from 1:15 to 1:30 P.M., E.W.T.

Following up the findings of the Executive Council that the best guarantee of post-war domestic security is a peacetime production program that will provide jobs for all, Labor For Victory will begin exploring the field of employment opportunities in a continuing radio survey with leaders of industry and labor participating.

The first program in this series, on Sept. 12, will take up the possibilities of a revival of activity in the construction industry. Participants will be Vice President Harry C. Bates, chairman of the AFL Housing Committee and president of the Bricklayers Union, and Peter W. Eller, Vice President of the Thompson-Starrett Co., Inc., one of the nation's leading construction firms.

If you are interested in getting and keeping a job after the war is over, don't miss this program and the ones to follow.

High Labor Standards Maintained By Union Label, Ornburn Declares

Washington, D. C.—The importance of union label goods and services in maintaining high label standards was emphasized by I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Union Label Trades Department, in an address delivered on Labor Day over the coast-to-coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

"More than a million Union Label cigarettes are being sent daily to our fighting forces overseas by members of American labor unions," Mr. Ornburn said. "From our fighting men in all parts of the world we are receiving thousands of messages expressing their appreciation of this little remembrance from American workers, two millions of whom have sons, husbands, brothers in the armed forces services. Many of our fighters are also members of our unions. I am confident that they will recognize these messages; until they return home to their families and friends."

The Union Label Trades Department is the central agency and clearing house for all the public activities with the American Federation of Labor, that have adopted a union label, shop card or service button, to designate their particular product or service. The chief aims of our department are to publicize union labels, shop cards and service buttons and to promote union label goods and union service.

In connection with these major activities we are called upon to assist in many disputes involving organized labor unions. Our constant goal, however, is the popularizing of the official emblems of organized labor. These symbols of union label goods and union services are the trade-marks of the American Federation of Labor. Through intelligent buying we are endeavoring to maintain the American labor standards that for years have obtained through collective bargaining.

"The best way to maintain these high labor standards is to buy only from firms that display the union label, shop card or service button.

"Since the American Revolution, there has been no greater guardian of democratic institutions than the American Federation of Labor. We need not be reminded of labor's service in instituting the free public school system; in abolishing child labor and the sweatshop; the efforts to obtain factory inspection; to bring about workmen's compensation; and the campaign for social security legislation in addition to gradual shortening of the work day, bettering working conditions, and establishing decent wages. Much of this progress we call civilization has been wrested from reluctant employers by the American Federation of Labor. Officials of labor organizations should have adequate representation at the peace conference and on all post-war planning commissions.

"Our first patriotic job is to win the war. The next big problem will be to win the peace, and the third will be our task to sustain American labor union standards during the post-war period."

WEST VIRGINIA AFL RE-ELECTS OFFICIALS

Charleston, W. Va.—The convention of the West Virginia State Federation of Labor held in Morgantown was attended by 172 accredited delegates representing 81 local unions, 4 central bodies, 4 building trades councils and 21 committees. President Tom Cairns, Secretary-Treasurer Verley Andrews and all vice presidents were re-elected.

Labor Can Win War and Peace, Green Tells U. S. on Labor Day

Highlights of Pres. Green's Address

Let all the world hear and know that on this Labor Day of 1943 America stands on the brink of victory! Everything we espouse as Americans, everything we believe in as trade-unionists, everything we are proud of as human beings, has been tried and tested in the crucible of world-wide war—and has emerged triumphant.

* * *

As the moment for final decisions draws near, labor stands united in support of President Roosevelt in his declaration that only unconditional surrender will be accepted.

* * *

On this Labor Day it is most fitting that we pause for a moment to commemorate the heroic service rendered by all those serving in the armed forces of our country and to offer a prayer for their safe return when the war ends. They have withstood the terrific blasts of the blitzkrieg and the deadly wiles of the Japs. They have never faltered. On the contrary, they have pressed relentlessly forward with a courage and tenacity that has shattered the resistance of the enemy and enabled our side to take the offensive.

* * *

But in a more fundamental sense, every offensive drive inaugurated by the United Nations in Africa, in Europe and in Asia had its beginning right here in this country. In this very shipyard where you men and women of the American Federation of Labor have broken records in building ships for our Navy, the new attacks against the enemy were first launched. In every bomber plant, munitions factory and shipyard of the nation where millions of other American Federation of Labor members toiled day and night to increase production to the topmost limit, the fate of the enemy was sealed.

* * *

Since the attack at Pearl Harbor we have performed many miracles, but we cannot yet afford to let up and rest upon our record. There is still too much to be done. The job ahead of us appears even more formidable than that which we have completed. The end of the fighting is still to labor. It is a clear and urgent call for more planes and bombs, more tanks and ships. The voice of a united America appeals to labor to keep on producing these vital weapons of war in greater quantities for our fighting troops who are forging across the seven seas to strike the death blow at the enemy. The Army, Navy and Air Forces will not fail us. We must not fail them.

* * *

No action by labor which would serve to interrupt or delay the realization of full and complete victory can be countenanced or approved. No matter how great the provocation may be, no matter what hardships we may encounter, we must maintain our "no-strike" pledge until victory is finally and completely won. It is our duty to work and serve while our soldiers fight and sacrifice. By relinquishing the exercise of the right to strike now we can preserve the exercise of that right for all time to come.

* * *

Labor maintains that the War Labor Board must be an independent agency, serving as an arbitration tribunal, whose decisions in controversies which arise between employers and employes must be final and in no way subject to review or change by any other government agency or by the chairman of any government-created board.

* * *

The American Federation of Labor has protested vigorously against uncontrolled price increases of the necessities of life. We insist that prices must be stabilized along with wages as provided for by Congress. We ask nothing more than that labor be treated under the law, but we shall fight on and on until these rights are guaranteed.

* * *

Labor offers a plan through which this can be accomplished. We propose that production shall be stimulated and increased in accordance with the war needs of our nation. In order to do this, incentive prices for food products must be paid. Food can be brought about by the payment of a government subsidies. It is the only practical, realistic way through which we can maintain a national economy which will provide for the production of food and all other necessities essential to the winning of the war in such volume as to meet every demand and urgent need.

* * *

As we look ahead to the future, our chief concern hinges over what will happen when the war ends. The men and women of labor do not believe that human life is cheap, that freedom and democracy are merely empty slogans, that victory must be won regardless of the cost, that the earth must be filled with the blood of innocent victims. To us war is a completely unnecessary evil. And if we approve fighting peace as a result of our victory in this war, we will feel that another war has been fought in vain and that our sweat and tears and the lives of thousands of our brave young men have been wasted.

* * *

In our own land, our primary consideration must be to keep America free at any cost. Grave as the post-war readjustments may be, we must solve our problems by democratic methods. We must reject Fascist, Nazi and Communistic short-cuts that only lead to despair and we must at the same time resist the temptation to exploit the misery and the lives of our people. The American way of life based upon free enterprise for labor and for industry, is the only way of life for the American people.

* * *

To secure our enjoyment of the blessings of liberty, the economic and industrial life of our country must be kept in smooth working order. A major depression with widespread unemployment after the war is the great danger to avoid. It can be avoided if we prepare a program of peacetime production now which will provide jobs for all during the hardships period. This can and must be done. Any nation which cannot produce for the needs of peace on an even greater scale than for war is morally, spiritually and economically bankrupt.

* * *

America no longer can isolate herself against the rest of the world. The war has taught us this basic lesson. We must not forget it when peace comes.

* * *

Workers of America, on this fateful Labor Day, I appeal to you to unite into an unconquerable army for the winning of the war and the winning of the peace.

Many Late Union Leaders Honored By Ships Launched On Labor Day

Washington, D. C.—Labor leaders of the past whose memories are revered because of their service to humanity were honored on Labor Day by the launching of Liberty ships named after them.

Elaborate ceremonies attended the launching of the Jerome K. Jones Shipyard, Inc., Georgia. The cost of this ship was defrayed by the purchase of War Bonds by AFL workers throughout the state. Former head of the Georgia State Federation of Labor and nationally known as a long service editor, one eminent labor editor, Mr. Jones died several years ago.

Among the other Liberty ships given the names of former AFL leaders were the Robert Fechner, the Eric Nolan, the Ben T. Osborne, the Michael Casey and the Albert J. Berres.

Last year Liberty ships were named after Samuel Gompers, Andrew Furuseth, Peter J. McGuire, James Duncan and John Mitchell.

THREE INDIANA PLANTS CHOOSE AFL AFFILIATES

Washington, D. C.—Victories for the AFL in three Indiana plants were reported to AFL President William Green by Organizer Hugh Gormley, Indianapolis.

In addition to winning a majority of the votes among the employees of the Crane Manufacturing Company, makers of globes and flat maps, the election at the Continental Optical Company resulted in 205 votes for the AFL to 91 against it and the poll at the Victory Ordnance Plant, Terre Haute, Ind., recorded 201 votes for the AFL to 38 opposed.

AFGE MEMBER PUTS 85% OF PAY IN WAR BONDS

C. E. Windhovel, of Lake City, Fla., a member of the American Federation of Government Employes, AFL, and late, is recorded as investing 85 per cent of his salary in war bonds. He is employed at the Veterans' Administration Facility at Lake City. The deductions are made before he gets his pay check.

Mr. Windhovel is a veteran of the Spanish-American War. He has purchased war bonds each month since May, 1941, and has not cashed any of the bonds. In addition, his two small grandchildren, aged 10 and 12 years, have bought eight $25 bonds.

Address Spurs Workers To Meet Test Of Critical Future

Tampa, Fla.—Victory in the war and in the peace to follow lies within the grasp of American workers, AFL President William Green told 25,000 cheering shipyard workers in his major Labor Day address here.

Speaking to the lunch-hour throng in the yards of the Tampa Shipbuilding Company and to a nation-wide radio audience, Mr. Green emphasized that this Labor Day was unique in history because America's soldiers of production celebrated it across the length and breadth of the land by working harder than ever to speed the war effort.

The call of the mom..nt is still to labor, Mr. Green emphasized. He pointed out that the starting point of the new offensives against the enemy is in the factories, shipyards and munitions plants of this country. There is still urgent need for more planes and ships and guns to equip the fighting forces of the United Nations with the power to strike the death blow at the enemy, Mr. Green declared.

"Every new production mark that we break, every new height that we scale, is going to shorten this war and save the lives of thousands of our own American boys — our sons, our brothers, our loved ones," he said. "Labor and industry now face the supreme challenge, the supreme responsibility of advancing or retarding the final drive against our foes.

"What shall our answer be?

"If I understand the hearts and minds of America's workers, that answer will be work—hard, unremitting, inspired work to back up to the limit the fighting men who are offering their lives in this to defend us and to preserve everything we hold dear."

As the moment for final decisions draws near, Mr. Green declared, labor stands united in support of President Roosevelt in his declaration that only unconditional surrender will be accepted" from our enemies.

Discussing the domestic problems of organized labor, Mr. Green stressed these points:

1—That the no-strike pledge must be kept religiously by labor for the duration.

2—That decisions of the National War Labor Board on wage adjustments should not be subject to veto by the National Mobilization Director or the Economic Stabilization Director.

3—That the cost of living, particularly food prices, must be stabilized along with wages at September 15, 1942, levels, as required by the Economic Stabilization Act.

4—That Government subsidies should be utilized to increase food production and to keep consumer prices down.

5—That the vicious Connally-Smith Act, which has served to promote strikes instead of preventing them, must be repealed by Congress at the earliest opportunity.

"We will not forget those members of Congress who voted to enact this law over the President's veto," Mr. Green warned.

Taking up post-war problems, the AFL chief urged immediate steps to set the stage for a tremendous peacetime production drive when the war ends. This action, coupled with expansion of the social security laws, will help to banish fear of want in America, he said.

"Any nation which cannot produce for the needs of peace on an even greater scale than for war is morally, spiritually and economically bankrupt," Mr. Green charged.

In the international sphere, Mr. Green declared that labor will seek full representation at the peace conference which will come at a part peace which will be lasting. He concluded:

"These are vast undertakings. But we can succeed if America joins with other nations of good-will in the execution of a clear-cut policy and program which will outlaw and abolish war for all time. This is the supreme goal, the cause which transcends all others in our minds. We must never allow prejudice, hate or narrow isolationism to destroy our golden opportunity of attaining it.

"Workers of America, on this fateful Labor Day, I appeal to you to unite into an unconquerable army for the winning of the war and the winning of the peace."